



King County

Department of Community and Human Services

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Regional Human Services and Veterans Citizen Levy Oversight Joint Board Meeting Summary

October 22, 2008 2-4 p.m.

King County Library System Service Center – Issaquah

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 2:00 p.m.

Roll Call

A quorum was declared.

Regional Human Services Levy Oversight Board (RHSLOB) Members Present: Joe Ingram (Co-Chair), Dorry Elias-Garcia (Co-Chair), Kathleen Hadaller, Kevin Bernadt, Edie Nelson

Veterans Citizen Levy Oversight Board (VCLOB) Members Present: Doug Hoople (Chair), Roger Welles, Kathy Lewis, Robert Stephens, Jr., Stan Gunno, Oren Hadaller

Board Members Excused/Absent: Doris Tevaseu, Gary Kingsbury, Francisco Ivarra, Ron Forest, Bill Wood

County Staff Present: Marcy Kubbs, Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS); Kelli Larsen, DCHS; Jackie MacLean, Director, DCHS; Debora Gay, DCHS; Sherry Hamilton, DCHS; Anne Shields, Public Health-Seattle & King County (PHSKC); Jim Ott (PHSKC)

Guests: Councilmember Kathy Lambert; Alfie Alvarado, Washington Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA); Susan Rogel, Friends of Youth; Keltie Wright, Friends of Youth; Opal, Phenice, and Esme Segers, Friends of Youth

Review of Meeting Summary

The draft April and July meeting summaries were reviewed and no edits were identified.

ACTION: The April and July meeting summaries were approved

Report from RHSLOB and VCLOB

Chair and Co-Chair Report – Doug Hoople and Joe Ingram

In this third quarter of 2008, we reviewed one procurement plan, bringing the total number of reviewed plans to 24. These plans cover a wide array of services, and account for over 34 million dollars. There are now just a few procurement plans remaining to be reviewed by the boards.

Several board members recently attended a groundbreaking ceremony for McDermott Place, a new housing development by the Low Income Housing Institute. McDermott Place will provide 75 permanent affordable housing units for homeless individuals, with 38 units designated specifically for veterans. Supportive services, including employment and job training, will also be provided at the site. The Veterans and Human Services Levy is providing \$1.48 million for this capital project.

During this quarter, we have hosted 4 monthly Veterans and Human Services Levy Oversight Board meetings, as well as 6 subcommittee meetings, totaling 77 total hours of volunteer service from our board members.

The boards are gearing up to start providing presentations to the community to raise awareness about how levy funded services are improving lives of individuals in our community.

In our committee meetings this quarter, we received updates on the evaluation efforts for the levy. The evaluation framework has been completed, with outputs and outcomes set for each levy activity. The next steps for the evaluation team will include writing several profile reports on levy activities. The first of these reports will focus on Strategy One, which aims to enhance services for veterans and their families. This report will include the results of a survey of veterans who have received services from the King County Veterans' Program. This and future reports will help us ensure that services are reaching the people and places that are most in need.

Metropolitan King County Councilmember Kathy Lambert

Board member Stan Gunno introduced Councilmember Kathy Lambert.

Councilmember Lambert, who is the Chair of the Law, Justice and Human Services Committee, is very passionate about the work of the levy oversight boards.

Councilmember Lambert said that she believed in the importance of having a home and a place to go and thanked the boards for all of the incredible work they have done.

She also mentioned that as we look forward, we will be able to see how peoples' lives have been changed and she hopes that King County will be the place where everyone's dreams are met. She shared information about the various levy projects being implemented in County Council District Three and mentioned that sheltering people in need is a major tool for success.

She was happy to say that we are making a difference in the lives of people, but acknowledged that the work of the evaluation team will be important to concretely show which programs were most successful and highlight any needed adjustments.

Again, Councilmember Lambert thanked the oversight boards for their work and especially for their passion about these issues. She concluded her remarks by thanking the service providers for their work.

Panel Discussion: Levy Services in the Community

Washington State Department of Affairs (WDVA) – Alfie Alvarado

The WDVA estimates that 37 percent of the King County population is either a veteran or a dependent of a veteran. Because of the urban nature of King County, the WDVA alone can not serve all the veterans in need. Alfie provided an overview of the WDVA services provided in partnership with the King County Veterans' Program with Veterans and Human Services Levy dollars. These programs include:

- Treatment for mental illness
- Housing assistance
- Financial benefits
- Veterans Conservation Corps (VCC)
- Post Traumatic Stress Disorder counseling
- Services for families (The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs only serves veterans)

Q: Is there housing component for VCC?

A: We work with clients in VCC to secure housing through other sources.

Q: Is VCC still looking for projects to work on? The City of Auburn has a large environmental park that has a lot of work to be done.

A: Alfie will look into that.

Q: How is the WDVA phone line different from that offered by 2-1-1?

A: The WDVA is working to improve the connection with 2-1-1, but we had some issues estimating how much it would cost to add a mechanism for quickly and seamlessly connecting veteran callers to WDVA.

Q: Is your office closed on Friday?

A: Yes, but there are staff members telecommuting and taking calls from home on Fridays.

Q: What programs exist specifically for women with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder?

A: The WDVA is working to provide more customized services for female veterans. The agency has convened a women's advisory group and is making other changes to services.

Friends of Youth – Keltie Wrights

Friends of Youth serves as the lead agency for Healthy Start services in the north and east regions of King County, in conjunction with Youth Eastside Services in Bellevue, Northshore Youth and Family Services in Bothell, Center for Human Services in Shoreline, and Renton Area Youth Services in Renton.

We expect to serve 350 families in King County this year by establishing one-on-one relationships with mothers, fathers, and babies. The average program stay is 24 months, which can really help families build a foundation for their future. The program is nationally accredited for children and family services (only 1800 organizations meet these standards nationwide) and provides significant benefits to society relative to program costs. Staff members conduct home visits every two weeks with young families.

Keltie brought a young Friends of Youth client to share her story with the levy oversight boards. Opal was five months pregnant when she started Healthy Start as a single mom who had been kicked out of her house, was briefly homeless, and stayed with her parents for a while. Her caseworker made connections to other programs at Friends of Youth that enabled Opal to learn about child development and meet other moms in similar situations.

When Opal became pregnant with her second child, Friends of Youth helped find her transitional housing. She is now in a two-year housing program and can move into Section 8 permanent housing next. Opal said, "If I didn't have Friends of Youth and the Healthy Start program, I wouldn't be where I am now".

Q: What happens when child turns three-years-old?

A: Friends of Youth makes every effort to transition families to Head Start if possible, or help with three- to five-year-old range by transitioning them into pre-Kindergarten or other systems.

Q: What type of education do you assist young parents with?

A: Approximately 50 percent of clients have graduated from high school or received their GED, so they are frequently interested in more education and we help them make connections with local programs.

Q: Do you ask if clients are veterans or dependents of a veteran?

A: We have a very small proportion of veterans and serve approximately 46 percent white and 42 percent Latina mothers. We will consider asking the veteran question in the future.

Mental Health in Community Clinics – Anne Shields

Public Health-Seattle & King County (PHSKC) selected the King County Behavioral Health Safety Net Consortium to implement services funded by the Human Services Levy Activity #3.1. The Consortium, coordinated and administered by Community Health Plan, is allocating funds to over twenty safety net medical clinics to enhance mental health staffing in safety net clinics.

Levy funds are also being used to pilot evidence-based strategies for preventing and treating maternal depression in low-income pregnant women and mothers for Levy Activity #4.2. These pilots also incorporate strategies aimed at supporting children's mental health needs, with funding from the Children's Health Initiative. Nine clinics and maternity support programs in five safety net organizations are piloting interventions for moms and kids.

These strategies are providing:

- Social workers with master's degrees
- Culturally focused staff with specific language abilities
- Mental health specialist that is also working to strengthen partnerships and the service system

Q: Are you offering treatment for chemical dependency?

A: We are working to provide more services – all clients are assessed for mental health and chemical dependency issues at intake.

Q: Are there gaps in the healthcare system and what can be done?

A: We struggle with individuals that have Medicaid and lose coverage. If individuals are more chronically ill, we are struggling to serve them. Of the 7,000 clients we have seen, half are uninsured and housing is a very big problem.

Q: Why wasn't the Odessa Brown Children's Clinic funded?

A: They did not apply through the recent RFP, but they have had a change of leadership and we may see funding proposals from them in the future.

The mission of the Odessa Brown Children's Clinic is to serve as an enduring community partner with a dedication to promoting quality pediatric care, family advocacy, health collaboration, mentoring, and education in a culturally relevant context.

Friends of Youth – Susan Rogel

Susan Rogel thanked the levy oversight boards for the funding provided to remodel the New Ground Kirkland building, which will serve 18- to 21-year-old clients in need of housing. The agency recently received the certificate of occupancy and the grand opening ceremony occurred last Wednesday.

The building holds eight apartments, six for transitional housing, one for office space, and one for the residential manager's apartment. The residential manager will be available 24 hours every day, and there will be a master's level case manager.

According to Susan, "The building we used before was falling apart, and was inaccessible (with no close bus lines), but now we have a newly remodeled building with a bus stop right outside."

Single adults need assistance finding permanent housing, especially on the eastside. Friends of Youth helps them look for job opportunities in the community around the housing complex, so they can still live and work in their familiar community. Approximately 75% of clients are male, with about 25-30% people of color.

Q: What do you require of your tenants?

A: Clients must be in school or working at least 30 hours each week. Most clients are working toward a GED or already have one, and are working at a job or pursuing more education. The key is to work closely with clients on extensive career plans to help them find jobs beyond the minimum wage.

Q: Are you working on the landlord liaison project?

A: Yes, we already have a number of landlord relationships in place and we are working with four other agencies on the United Way landlord liaison project.

Q: Do you collect information about whether the clients' parents are veterans?

A: No, we don't do that now, but will consider it for the future.

Q: How many people are you not able to serve?

A: New Ground Everett turns away three or four clients each month and we are hoping that the new Kirkland housing will fill that gap. Approximately 400-500 contacts through our eastside street outreach program is typical, but this year we have already had 1,200 contacts, so we're worried about the capacity.

Q: How many beds do you have for kids under 18?

A: We provide 9 emergency shelter beds for this age group.

New Business

Washington State Military Kids Summit, Nov. 14, 2008

The Washington State Military Kids and Families Summit on November 14, 2008 in Tacoma will focus on deployment, transition, and related issues, and offers dynamic speakers and onsite resources and information.

#1.3 procurement plan available for public comment

The procurement plan to provide a dedicated telephone resource for veterans to increase access to information about services is now available for public comment (ends on Friday, October 31).

Old Business

The board members were assured that veteran status is an important measure that is being collected for all appropriate projects.

Petitions/Communications (Public Comment)

Sheila Sebron offered comments to the boards. She is a disabled veteran, a formerly homeless individual, and also serves on the governing board for the Committee to End Homelessness.

Sheila has been counseling veterans in need for about three years and is working to write a profile of veterans in King County. She mentioned that there are more National Guard and Reserve members now, and that multiple deployments make it difficult to readjust. She also mentioned that she believes young veterans have too much pride to attend stand down events even though young families are starting to use food banks.

She is planning to host workshops in communities to share useful information, such as grant writing training.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.